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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1603

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

SUBCOMMITTEES:

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FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED
AGENCIES

FINANCIAL SERVICES AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT
STATE, FOREIGN OPERATIONS AND
RELATED PROGRAMS

February 25, 2014

227

Chairman Tom Wheeler
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th St SW
District of Columbia 20536

20354

Chairman Wheeler:

I am writing to express my concern that the Miracom InnoCaption product has not been granted a decision regarding its eligibility as a Telecommunications Relay Services (TRS) provider. The original application was submitted in 2011, and it is now 15 months past the Federal Communications Commission's one year deadline to provide a decision.

In times of economic uncertainty, I hold that government should not impede the entrepreneurial spirit which is the backbone of this country's economic success. Without the certainty of this decision, government stands as barrier for Miracom InnoCaption's ability to provide both an essential service that facilitates disabled and elderly citizens the ability to communicate, and direct creation of jobs in my district.

I realize that demand for funding through TRS is growing beyond capacity, and further that access to this fund is subject to fraud. I sincerely appreciate the effort it takes to consider applications, but am dismayed that it has taken this long for my constituent to receive feedback.

I urge you to expedite the decision on this application, and to provide for me the result as well as an explanation for its conclusion. As a member of the Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Subcommittee, I look forward to working with you as we move through the budget process for Fiscal Year 2015 and welcome an open line of communication.

Sincerely,

Kevin Yoder,
Member of Congress



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

April 4, 2014

The Honorable Keith Yoder
U.S. House of Representatives
215 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Yoder:

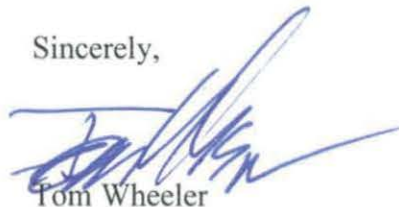
Thank you for your letter regarding an application filed by Miracom USA, Inc., for certification as a provider of Internet protocol captioned telephone relay service (IP CTS), a form of telecommunications relay service (TRS). I share your enthusiasm for IP CTS, which is an effective communications tool for many individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing, including many senior citizens. Your views are very important and will be included in the record of the proceeding and considered as part of the Commission's review.

The Commission's Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau (CGB) has been reviewing Miracom's application and its three amendments to the application to determine whether its provision of IP CTS will meet or exceed all operational, technical, and functional mandatory minimum standards. This review has been conducted in light of regulations adopted by the Commission in August 2013, to ensure that IP CTS remains a service that provides functionally equivalent communications service to its users in a manner that is not subject to fraud, waste and abuse.

Most recently, in December 2013, CGB requested that Miracom provide information regarding its projected costs. Miracom provided the requested information on December 11, 2013. CGB staff is now completing its review of these materials, and I envision that positive action on Miracom's request will be taken in the very near future. Specifically, in a decision to be released shortly, CGB expects to grant the application, subject to certain conditions associated with Miracom's provision of IP CTS.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,



Tom Wheeler